

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6163

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NAC, DPC
SUBJ: FORUM FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION

REF: A) STATE 267214 112323Z NOV 75 (NOTAL)
B. USNATO 6155 121910Z NOV 75 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH PERMREP
TINE ON VENUE FOR MINISTERS TO ADDRESS STANDARDIZATION,
US CHARGE LEARNED FRENCH ADAMANT IN OPPOSITION NOT ONLY TO US
PROPOSAL THAT A BRIEF NAC MEETING BE CONVENED AFTER THE CON-
CLUSION OF THE DECEMBER 10 DPC MINISTERIAL, BUT ALSO TO THE DUTCH
PROPOSAL THAT NAC MINISTERIAL TAKE UP STANDARDIZATION AS EARLY ITEM
ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 11. FURTHERMORE, SAUVAGNARGUES
DOES NOT PLAN TO ATTEND FIRST DAY OF NAC MINISTERIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN EFFORT TO OVERCOME FRENCH OPPOSITION TO MINISTERIAL
MEETING FORMAT FORMULAS WHICH WOULD ALLOW DEFENSE MINISTERS TO
DISCUSS
STANDARDIZATION IN NAC COFIGURATION, CHARGE CALLED ON TINE
NOVEMBER 13. CHARGE ELEBORATED ON US PROPOSAL THAT DIS-
CUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION MIGHT TAKE PLACE DURING A BRIEF
NAC MEETING TO BE CONVENED AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE DPC
MINISTERIAL ON DECEMBER 10, WITH ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS
BEING JOINED BY FRENCH AND GREEK REPRESENTATIVES FOR THAT
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PURPOSE (REF. A). CHARGE POINTED OUT A) THAT OTHER PRO-
POSED ARRANGEMENTS WOULD REQUIRE MANY DEFENSE MINISTERS TO
REMAIN IN BRUSSELS AS MUCH AS 24 HOURS LONGER THAN THEY HAD
PLANNED; B) THAT A SUITABLE INTERVAL INCLUDING CEREMONIAL

ACTIVITIES COULD BE EMPLOYED ON DECEMBER 10 TO CLEARLY DISTINGUISH THE TERMINATION OF DPC AND THE BEGINNING OF NAC PROCEEDINGS; AND C) THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WE HAD IN MIND WOULD BE FOR THE DECEMBER 1975 MINISTERIAL ONLY AND WOULD NOT PREJUDGE FORMAT FOR DISCUSSING STANDARDIZATION AT FUTURE NATO MINISTERIALS.

2. TINE SAID HE APPRECIATED US SENSITIVITY TO FRENCH CONCERNS BUT, SPEAKING FRANKLY, HE FOUND THE PROBLEMS POSED BY US FORMAT SUGGESTION INSURMOUNTABLE. WHILE HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AS YET, AND HAD NOT YET REPORTED THE US PROPOSAL MADE AT THE NOVEMBER 12 PERMREPS' LUNCH (PARA 5, REF B), HE FEARED PARIS WOULD BE "SHOCKED" AT THE THOUGHT OF ANY ARRANGEMENTS THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A "HALFWAY HOUSE BETWEEN THE NAC AND THE DPC". ACCORDINGLY, HE PLANNED TO REPORT US INITIATIVE TO PARIS ONLY AS AN INFORMAL SOUNDING.

3. TINE CONTINUED SAYING THERE WAS AN ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION IN THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES WOULD NOT BE IN BRUSSELS FOR ANY MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO DECEMBER 12. HE EXPLAINED THAT SAUVAGNARGUES WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING GISCARD ON THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO EGYPT, AND PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH SCHEDULING THE SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS THERE MEANT THAT SAUVAGNARGUES WOULD BE RETURNING FROM EGYPT ONLY ON THE EVENING OF THE 11TH. TINE SAID FRANCE WOULD BE REPRESENTED DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE NAC BY SECRETARY OF STATE DESTREMAU. THE FRENCH PERMREP CONTINUED THAT HE BELIEVED HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD ALSO OPPOSE THE PLAN MENTIONED BY THE DUTCH PERMREP WHICH ENVISAGED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BEGIN THE FIRST DAY WITH A DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION IN PLENARY SESSION PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE NAC'S RESTRICTED CONSULTATIONS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD WISH TO AVOID ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD SEEM TO HAVE THE NAC OPENING WITH BUSINESS WHICH WAS SIMPLY A FOLLOW-UP TO THE DPC MINISTERIAL. HE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT HE THOUGHT HIS AUTHORITIES MIGHT OPPOSE ANY PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSIONS BY DEFENSE MINISTERS. WHEN CHARGE REMINDED TINE OF NATO RULES AND PRE-1966 PRACTICE WHEREUNDER DEFENSE MINISTERS

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FREQUENTLY TOOK THE FLOOR IN COUNCIL MEETINGS, TINE INDICATED THAT WHAT HE REALLY MEANT WAS THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD PROBABLY PREFER THAT THE MAJOR NAC RESTRICTED CONVERSATIONS TAKE PLACE BEFORE ANY DISCUSSION OF AN ITEM LIKE STANDARDIZATION IN WHICH DEFENSE MINISTERS MIGHT TAKE PART.

4. TINE CONTINUED SAYING IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT HIS FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD PROBABLY MISS THE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS DURING THE NAC RESTRICTED SESSION, AND HE WONDERED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR; THE RESTRICTED PORTION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONTINUE INTO THE MORNING OF THE 12TH SO THAT SAUVAGNARGUES WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE. TINE REMINDED HIMSELF, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS

PROBABLY ASKING TOO MUCH OF THE ALLIES. CHARGE THANKED THE
FRENCH PERMREP FOR HIS PERSONAL VIEWS AND THE TWO AGREED TO BE
IN TOUGH AGAIN ON THIS MATTER.

5. COMMENT: AS ANTICIPATED IN REF. B, THERE APPEARS NO CHANCE
ALLIES CAN REACH A CONSENSUS ON APPROACH PREFERRED BY WASHINGTON,
AND DUTCH FORMULA IS MOST LIKELY, WE BELIEVE, TO BE FAVORED BY
A STRONG MAJORITY, ESPECIALLY IF DEFMINs ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE
PART IN STANDARDIZATION DISCUSSION. STREATOR

NOTE BY OC/T: NATO 6163 NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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